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For Distinguished Service

Few men have served this government in such a variety of ways, or with such quiet distinction, as Allen W. Dulles, the retiring director of the Central Intelligence Agency. In presenting the National Security Medal to Mr. Dulles, President Kennedy appropriately referred to this record—going back to 1916 when Mr. Dulles first joined what was then known as the United States Diplomatic Corps and extending in one capacity or another through the terms of seven Presidents.

In their friendly exchange at this ceremony, both the President and Mr. Dulles referred to the unsung successes and the advertised failures which might be attributed to the super-secret agency under the Dulles direction. It is, of course, the nature of the agency's work which has made this so, but it is too bad for those who love stories of derring-do and of deeds by darkness that Mr. Dulles is not free to write his memoirs in full. No question exists, in any event, about Mr. Dulles richly deserving the honors represented in this latest award and the thanks which the President has extended to him.